

Minutes

Asheville City Council - Public Safety Committee August 8, 2006 – 7 to 8:15 a.m. Fourth Floor Municipal Building Training Room

“Operationally Aware – Policy Focused”

Present: Council Members: Dr. Carl Mumpower, Chair; Bryan Freeborn, Jan Davis
Staff: Jeff Richardson, William Hogan, Ted Lambert, Gary Gudac, Sarah Benson, Gary Cornett, Greg Grayson; Don Babb; Jonathan Feldman, Tim Splain

- **Approval of July Minutes**
 - The minutes of the July 11 meeting were approved.
- **Communications Towers Update**
 - On target to go live. Date of acceptance testing is October 31, 2006. The equipment will allow automatic channel change – won't have to manually change channels when you move from area to area; enables certain public safety features such as man down; fully digital system; allows usage of common type system as Buncombe County Sheriff's Department; when the system goes digital allows usage of statewide VIPER system.
- **Gang Activity**
 - This item was postponed until the September meeting.
- **Evacuation Shelters in Emergency Situations**
 - Presentation by the Fire Chief – The city can provide temporary shelter for 500 citizens. 500 cots is a reasonable number – more than calls for a town our size. This will fulfill an immediate need until citizens can seek other shelter. The Red Cross operates and manages this shelter for weather situations, hazardous materials, fires or other reasons for large dislocations. This shelter is ideally less than 24 hours but can provide 72 hours of shelter and provisions. Emergency preparedness 30 minute program is currently running on Channel 11. A portable 100,000 kW generator is needed to take to community centers in case of emergency situation. Chief Grayson will follow up on cost and come back to the committee with thoughts and suggestions.
- **Training for Council Members on Role in Emergency Situations**
 - The committee requested that staff bring the resolution to adopt the National Incident Management System Incident Command System (NIMS ICS) to the September meeting before it goes to full council. The committee appreciated the information provided regarding executive level training. The committee requested that Chief Grayson and Manager Jackson provide clear definition of protocol involving city council in emergency situations. The committee feels that some level of participation is important – chiefly around observing, monitoring, and assessing as a means of utility and community interface. Chief Grayson will draft guiding principles for the September meeting.
- **Local Response to Illegal Immigrants Who Violate the Law**

- Local law enforcement has no authority to take action against illegal immigrants unless it involves a criminal matter. Chief Hogan stated that illegal immigrants are not a big problem for the police department. Chair advised that Congressman Taylor is currently having meetings reference regional enforcement action on illegal immigrant issues and he encouraged staff to contact Congressman Taylor for details. Assistant City Manager advised that the National League of Cities passed a resolution on immigration law reform to be sent to Congress. Chair advised that this matter is scheduled for Council meeting next week and that it was his intention to press the issue. There was no consensus from committee members on this matter.

- **Public Comment**

- There was no public comment.

- **Meeting Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 a.m.

- **Next Meeting**

- Tuesday, September 5, Municipal Building – 7:00 to 8:00 a.m.